

Amendments to and listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claim 6, without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 18, 19, and 25-27, without prejudice, and insert new claims 36-41 as set forth in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A nasal or ocular delivery composition in the form of an aqueous solution or suspension for ~~nasal or ocular delivery in the form of a spray or drops~~ of a therapeutic agent across a mucosal surface into an animal's systemic circulation, the composition comprising (i) chitosan, a salt thereof or a derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or a salt of the derivative, (ii) a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, (iii) triethyl citrate as a plasticizer, and (iv) a systemically-acting therapeutic agent ~~intended for systemic action~~.

2.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chitosan, the salt or the derivative or the salt of the derivative has a molecular weight of 4000 Dalton or greater.

8. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 7, wherein the chitosan, the salt or the derivative thereof or the salt of the derivative, has a molecular weight of from 50,000 to 300,000 Dalton.

9. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, comprising chitosan base or a nitrate, phosphate, sulphate, citrate, hydrochloride, glutamate, lactate or acetate salt of chitosan.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the chitosan has a degree of deacetylation of 40 % or greater.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 10, wherein the degree of deacetylation is from 70 to 90 %.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.25 to 3.0 % w/v of the chitosan, the salt or the derivative or the salt of the derivative expressed as chitosan base.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 12 comprising from 0.45 to 1.5 % w/v of the chitosan, the salt or the derivative or the salt of the derivative expressed as chitosan base.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyol-phosphate salt is β -glycerophosphate disodium.

16. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt is present in an amount of from 0.25 to 3.0 % w/v.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 16, wherein the polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt is present in an amount of from 0.75 to 2.0 % w/v.

18. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.05 to 5.0 % w/v of ~~the plasticizer~~ triethyl citrate.

19. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 18, comprising from 0.2 to 1.0 % w/v of ~~the plasticizer~~ triethyl citrate.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising ascorbic acid.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 20, comprising from 0.01 to 0.2 % w/v ascorbic acid.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is a polar drug, a polypeptide, a gene or a gene construct.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 22, wherein the therapeutic agent is insulin, calcitonin, leuprolide, luteinising hormone releasing hormone, growth hormone or a growth hormone releasing factor, naratriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, alnitidan, avitriptan, almotriptan, apomorphine, sildenafil, alprostadil, diamorphine, hydromorphone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, codeine, morphine or morphine-6-glucuronide.

24. (Withdrawn) A drug delivery device suitable for delivery of a composition via one or more of the nasal or ocular routes or a dose cartridge for use with such a device loaded with a composition as defined in claim 1.

25. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the composition as defined in claim 1, which process comprises mixing triethyl citrate, a solution comprising chitosan or a salt or derivative thereof or a salt of the derivative ~~with and~~ a solution comprising a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt.

26. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for transporting a systemically[[]]-acting therapeutic agent across a nasal or ocular mucosal surface of an animal, the process comprising administering to the animal's nasal or ocular mucosal surface a composition in the form of a spray or drops of an aqueous solution or suspension comprising chitosan or a salt thereof or derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or a salt of the derivative, a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, triethyl citrate as a plasticizer and the systemically-acting therapeutic agent.

27. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for nasal or ocular delivery of a systemically[[]]-acting therapeutic agent to an animal, the process comprising nasally or ocularly delivering to the animal a composition in the form of a spray or drops of an aqueous solution or suspension comprising chitosan or a salt thereof or derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or a salt of the derivative, a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, triethyl citrate as a plasticizer and the systemically[[]]-acting therapeutic agent.

28.-35. (Canceled)

36. (New) The process of claim 26 wherein the composition is ocularly delivered to the animal.

37. (New) The process of claim 26 wherein the composition is nasally delivered to the animal.

38. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein the animal is a human.

39. (New) The process of claim 27 wherein the composition is ocularly delivered to the animal.

40. (New) The process of claim 27 wherein the composition is nasally delivered to the animal.

41. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein the animal is a human.